Note on Lott and Mustard Paper for Writing Replication

* Major finding is that allowing concealed carry decreases violent crimes
* Theory is that if a criminal doesn’t know if you have a gun, they will be deterred from attacking because there is a potential increased risk to them
* Shall Issue laws stipulate that requests for concealed carry permit be granted unless the individual has criminal record or history of significant mental illness
* Use data from 1977 to 1992 to investigate effect of shall issue right to carry concealed handguns
* First paper to directly study deterrence.
* DETERRENCE
  + Notion is that expected penalty affects criminals desire to commit the crime.
  + Only have arrest rate data rather than conviction rates or prison sentences
  + Use county-level dummies as control
  + Note the inconsistency of the crimes included in the categories
  + Note the variation in states of issuing practices
* DATA
  + 10 states issued Shall issue laws between 1977 and 1992
  + Code Dummy as 0/1 for Shall Issue
  + Census Bureau to control for other demographic characteristics. Population density, total population, breakdown of race and age by group
  + Income data – real per capita personal income, unemployment insurance payments, income maintenance payments, retirement payments per person over 65.
* EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE
  + Ln(crime rate) using weighted OLS. Control for each crime type’s arrest rate, demographics, FE for years and states. Main variable of interest is the shall issue variable.
  + Can also re-run with only the shall issue, shall issue + arrest rates, or shall issue + FE.
* Note to self – delete current rendition of Table 1 – doesn’t make any sense.